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### Butte educator receives UM teaching excellence award

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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March 31, 2009

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### **BUTTE EDUCATOR RECEIVES UM TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD**

#### **MISSOULA —**

Laurie Rossberg, who teaches seventh-grade language arts at East Middle School in **Butte**, was presented the 2009 Maryfrances Shreeve Award for Teaching Excellence at The University of Montana's 20th annual School of Education Reception, held March 27 in Missoula.

In her 18 years at East Middle School, Rossberg has made a positive contribution to the lives of hundreds of students – as a teacher, student council adviser, volleyball director and cross-country coach.

East Middle School Principal Larry Driscoll spearheaded Rossberg's nomination for the prestigious award. He wrote that Rossberg "has a way of making each student feel special about her class and to feel they have an adult they can trust."

The nomination was supported by many letters from Rossberg's colleagues, parents of her students and the students themselves. One student wrote: "Throughout all of my years of going to school, I have never had a teacher who was so enthusiastic to teach until last year. Every day, Mrs. Rossberg would come into class with a smile on her face. She looked like there was no happier place to be than being there teaching us."

"I was truly honored to receive the award," Rossberg said. "The special recognition of



my principal, colleagues, students and their parents meant as much to me as receiving the award.”

Rossberg said her husband, mother and sister were able to attend the reception in Missoula and that her close friend and former college roommate, Kathleen Foley, presented the award. “It was such a pleasure to share the day with all these people,” she said.

The award is named for the late Maryfrances Shreeve, who taught with distinction around western Montana and was the first award recipient. Shreeve held a bachelor’s and a master’s degree from UM. She epitomized the dedicated, concerned and committed master teacher who sets the standard for excellence in the profession today.

Shreeve’s daughter, Jean’ne, and her son, William, created the award in 1992 to ensure their mother’s legacy is carried on in elementary schools across the state. Award winners are presented with a check for \$2,000 and another check for \$1,000 to be used for teaching resources or other school needs.

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